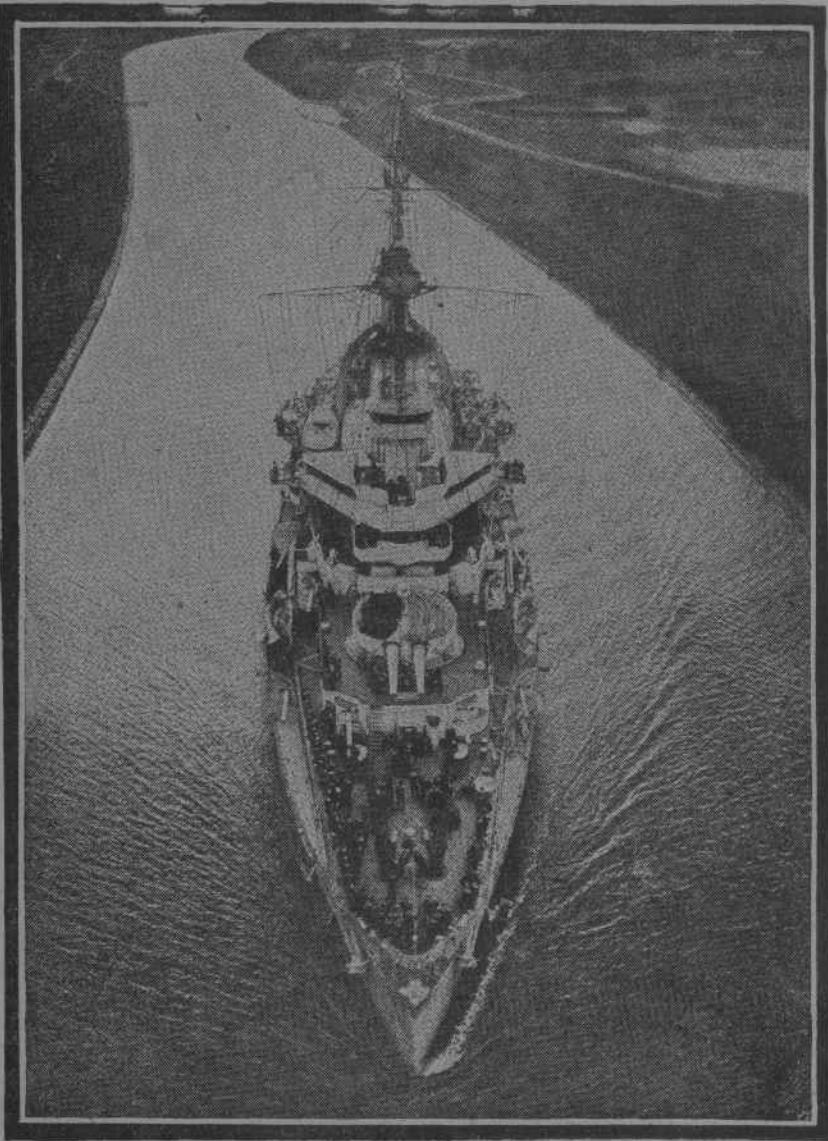


MUSEUM OF THE ODD, QUAIN AND CURIOUS.

BIG WAR SHIP IN THE KIEL CANAL.



PART of the American squadron which visited Germany not long ago went through the canal from Kiel, that artificial waterway which will stand through time to the credit of Kaiser Wilhelm. It is an imposing sight to see a

huge war ship pass slowly along the canal, and the photograph here reproduced shows the German flagship Kaiser Friedrich, which at the time had Prince Henry aboard. It is an odd view, and gives one a fair idea of the waterway and the size and draught of the ships that may go through it.

DOG WAR VETERAN.

THIS dog is a war veteran. He passed through several hot engagements during the Transvaal trouble, but came through it all unscathed. His name is Jack and he is the mascot of the First Scots Guards. It was at Orange River in November, 1899, that he "enlisted," and he served throughout the war.

His courage and fidelity have been rewarded by a medal and six bars, which are worn on his collar. His bars each represent a hard fight—Belmont, Modder River, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Belfast. It is told that Jack was cool under fire. When the troops returned home last year he was made much of by persons who admire any sort of a hero.



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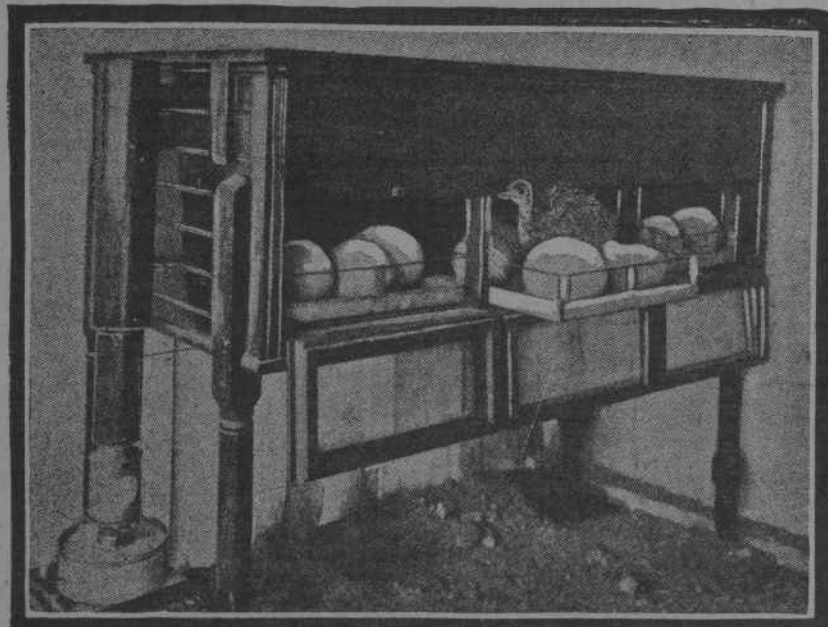
HARD ON STOUT PERSONS.

THERE is a small town in Sweden which will very probably soon be deserted by those of its residents who are unusually stout. The reason is because the local authorities recently issued an ordinance to the effect that they intend to impose a graduated tax on the residents, according to their weight, and to spend the money thus collected in making public improvements.

Persons who weigh 100 pounds or less will not be taxed; those who weigh from 100 to 200 pounds will each be taxed \$3 a year; those who weigh from 200 to 250 pounds will each be taxed \$6 a year and a tax bill for a larger amount, which will be in strict proportion to the weight, will be sent annually to every one who weighs more than 250 pounds.

Esquimo dogs have been driven forty-five miles over the ice in five hours. A picked team of these dogs once travelled six miles in twenty-eight minutes.

MACHINE MOTHER FOR FRENCH OSTRICHES.



An ostrich may be long breaking into the world, but when he at last arrives he compensates in size for length of time spent by interested persons in awaiting his coming. It must be humiliating to an ostrich full of the wild spirit of the old life of his ancestors to realize later in his career that his foster mother is an incubator. The experiment of mechanically hatching these birds, which furnish expensive plumes for my lady's hat, has been tried at Nice.

If the process were both successful and rapid profits would be enormous, but nature in this case would be overhauled by man's ingenuity, even though she concedes a little. It takes forty days to hatch one of these big eggs, and the machine ostrich when he contemplates his more rapidly hatched brother cousins of the chicken circle may find some comfort in the reflection that he is a leisurely fowl.

MOTOGIRL.

EVERY sort of "girl" is popular these days, and the flesh and blood motogirl has been closely followed by the mechanical motogirl, which apparently can do almost everything but enjoy ice cream soda. She has made a conquest of Europe, and every one who has come within her spell



bows to her as queen of her class. She walks and runs in a very lifelike manner. And she talks! She wouldn't be any sort of a girl if she didn't, but she possesses this one inestimable quality, which few women have—she will hold her tongue the moment it is so desired. All in all, she is not a bad looking mechanical miss, and she bears the curiosity of her audiences with the calm equanimity of an actress of long experience.

POEMS BY THE LATE POPE.

LEO XIII. composed two Latin poems a short time before his death and sent them to a German Catholic journal. Before sending them, however, he read them to two Cardinals whom he frequently consulted on literary matters, and, according to attendants at the Vatican, a very lively discussion took place on this occasion in regard to the merits of the ancient poets.

One of the Cardinals maintained that Virgil excelled all the other Latin writers; the other spoke in favor of Ovid, but Leo XIII. said that he preferred Horace to all other poets and that the older he grew the better he liked him.

SNAPSHOT OF A HOOKED AND LEAPING TARPON.



(THIS WEEK'S FIVE DOLLAR PRIZE WINNER.)

THE accompanying reproduction illustrates and authenticates probably as odd and difficult an accomplishment in photography as that of which any living object ever has been the subject.

Mr. Frank B. Frishmuth, to whom the credit of taking both the fish and snapshot belongs, is a retired capitalist and lives at Riverton, on the Delaware. A true and veteran sportsman on both land and sea, he is a famous hunter and angler, with an unexcelled record as a tarpon fisher. He is, moreover, an enthusiastic amateur photographer, and as such conceived the idea of simultaneously capturing a tarpon with line and camera, which, after over two years of continuous effort and many failures, he finally succeeded in doing.

The watery expanse overlooked by Fort Myer was the scene of his remarkable double victory, and his spoil a tarpon, six feet four inches in length, weighing a hundred and fifty pounds, and a splendid snapshot of the game monster as it hurried its

ODD MIRROR.

HERE is a glass which apparently can be used either as a mirror or window. It resembles a mirror because it has the ordinary silvered surface, yet it is unlike a mirror because it is transparent. On



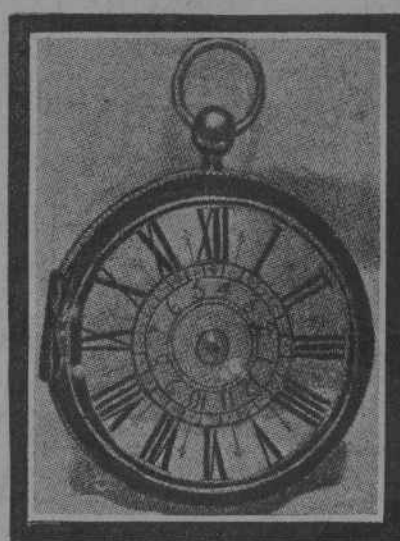
the back of the transparent or translucent plate is a coating, which consists of a silvering material, amyl acetate, gumcotton and fusel oil. This coating is also transparent or translucent, and by means of it the plate is made reflective. Thus the glass, while retaining its transparency, possesses all the reflective properties of a mirror.

No notable improvement has been made in mirrors for a long time, and for this reason the news that a new method of coating them has been discovered is of more than passing interest.

In 1840 beetroot supplied 4.35 per cent of the world's sugar. Now nearly sixty-eight pounds in every one hundred pounds of sugar come from beet.

WATCH OF CHARLES I.

THE original watch carried by Charles I. has found its way recently to Philadelphia. The famous timepiece was carried by Cromwell himself for years. It is at present the property of Wilfred Powell, the British Consul in Philadelphia. The royal watch, which still ticks after a



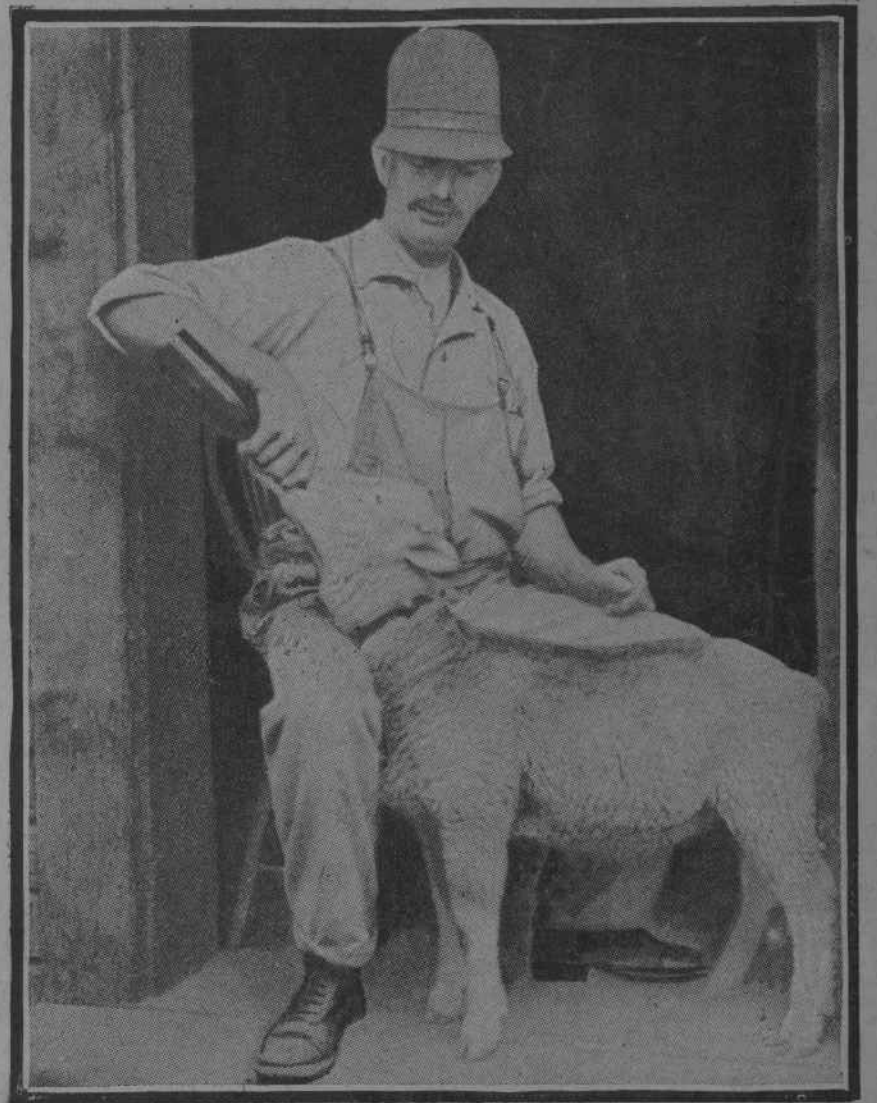
career of two hundred and sixty-two years, was made in 1610 for King Charles I. by the royal watchmaker of that time.

It is of the oldest pattern, having been made entirely by hand and costing in its day a good round sum of money. The case is of solid silver, ornamented in beautiful pierced filigree work. The outer case is made of copper, with a handsome leather cover, silver studded.

The royal watch runs thirty-six hours with one winding. Only one hand is used in designating the time. There is a silver bell enclosed in the silver case, on which the hours are struck. There is also an alarm attachment. The watch is four and a half inches in diameter and an inch and a half thick. Cromwell kept the watch as a personal possession for years. After the Restoration it fell into the hands of Joseph Kipling, of Overstone House, North Hants, England, an ancestor of Rudyard Kipling. Joseph Kipling was an ancestor of Mr. Powell, the present owner of the watch.

Five dollars will be paid each week to the contributor sending in for this page the most interesting new picture with 200 word description.

THIS LAMB WAS RAISED ON A BOTTLE.



BILLY the lamb considers Mr. William Snyder, of the Central Park Zoo, in the light of a father and mother. And he has every right to do so because ever since his real father and mother died in order to satisfy the craving men have for food, Billy has received material aid from Mr. Snyder in the form of a bottle of milk with which to keep his orphan soul together.

There is nothing in the city's appropriation which would permit the keeper to draw upon the Commissary Department for a baby's bottle fully equipped for conducting food into the interior arrangements of

an infant, but there were plenty of empty whiskey bottles to be had for the asking. Mrs. Snyder supplied the rubber arrangement, the city the milk and the bleating lamb's life was saved.

Three times a day Mr. Snyder calls "Billy! Billy!" and the lamb comes running if it be within the sound of the voice. Usually it follows the keeper like a dog and seems perfectly content to be near him. No other human being, except perhaps the keeper's children, has any attraction for it, although it is given the freedom of the Zoo and is made much of by the folk along the walks.

WITH HAMMER AND TONGS.

THOSE who have to study the effects of light and shade indoors will find it worth while to peep now and then into the cavernous gloom of half a dozen great foundries and like large workshops scattered over the city.

There stands in Downing street, near Varick, a large one story brick building, with a half arch for its doorway. To look through this doorway at ten o'clock or thereabout on a sunny morning is to come upon a revelation of the unexpected picturesque. The interior is a wide, irregular space, with earthen floor and rough brick walls thickly coated with dust. Scattered over the whole floor area are wagons of many sorts in various stages of completion and repair.

In a corner near the door is a gleaming forge that lights up the smutty faces and rough garments of the forgers. At the rear are three or four wide, low windows, through which pours a flood of sunshine from Houston street. Overhead are several skylights, shedding lanes of sunlight that glorify the smoky gloom through which they pass. Out of the immediate path of the sunlight the muck is a varying depth, and moving about, now in deep shadow, now beneath the full rain of sunshine, are busy men, unconscious that they help to make up such a picture as few artists would dare to essay.

MUSICAL HEART.

PROFESSOR REITTER, of Vienna, recently astonished the Medical Society of that city by saying that one of his patients had a musical heart. She is a woman, and ever since her fourth year she has suffered from palpitations. While still very young she noticed that a harmonious and thrilling sound came from her chest whenever she breathed, and a year or two later this music became so distinct that any one who was in the same room with her could hear it.

As she grew older it became more shrill and closely resembled a human voice. She present this curious music consists of only two notes, which are described as being very sweet and clear. Professor Reitter and the other members of the Medical Society are now studying this singular phenomenon, and the result of their investigations is awaited with interest by physicians throughout Europe.

SWALLOWS AND MICROBES.

MANY centuries ago Saint Augustine admonished those who would be followers of Christ to "shun wickedness as you shun swallows." "Swallows," he said, "and from what a modern churchman tells us it is evident that the good saint in using this simile uttered an important scientific truth.

This modern churchman is Father Victor, writing from Palestine, he draws attention to the fact that swallows and other migratory birds invariably shun those places which are in the slightest degree infected by noxious microbes. Thus they are never to be found in districts where cholera, yellow fever, the plague and other epidemic diseases prevail, and Father Victor, who has paid close attention to the subject for some months, further maintains that the districts which they select as their temporary homes are in all respects the most healthy that can be found.

It is evident from this that persons who are afraid of catching cholera or other infectious diseases ought not to live in places which are shunned by swallows and other migratory birds.

PLOT IN RUSSIA.

AMONG the Russian refugees in London there is much talk of a curious incident which recently occurred in the imperial palace at St. Petersburg. The governess of the royal children, it appears, entered the nursery a little before nine o'clock one morning, with the intention of giving the young princesses a lesson.

Seeing by the clock on the mantelpiece that she was five minutes before her usual time, she went back to her room and began to read, and on her return to the nursery was much surprised to find that the minute hand of the clock had not moved during her absence. Going up to the clock she was even more surprised to hear it ticking as usual, and, summoning a servant, she bade him take it to a watchmaker to be examined.

The watchmaker found in the interior of the clock a cartridge made of dynamite and

NORTHERNMOST RAILROAD.

THE northernmost railroad in the world has recently been opened for traffic. The line penetrates about one hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle. The northernmost railroad station is at Victoria Haven, on the Ofoten Fjord, on the Atlantic Ocean. The southern terminus is Lulea, on the Gulf of Bothnia. The total length of the line is about two hundred and fifty miles.

The eastern part, between Lulea and the famous mine at Gellivare, forty-four miles north of the Arctic Circle, has been in operation for more than fifteen years. It has now been extended to the Atlantic Ocean to facilitate shipments of iron ore. Lulea, on the narrow arm of the Baltic, is closed by ice for seven or eight months every year. At



Victoria Haven, however, there is not only deep water for the largest vessels, but like all the Atlantic ports of Norway, it is ice free the year round, so that ore may be forwarded every month to the blast furnaces of England and Germany. The mines at Gellivare yielded 800,000 tons of ore in the year 1899, and 1,000,000 tons last year. The quantity is expected to be largely increased now that there are better facilities for getting the mineral out of the country. The Swedish ores are regarded as among the best steel ores in the world, but they are difficult to reduce because of the phosphorus in them. As Sweden has no coal with which to smelt them she sells most of the ore to England and Germany.

Films of soap bubble have been measured of a thinness of the four-millionth part of an inch.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

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